

**CITY OF WOODSTOCK
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

January 13, 2015
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Mike McCleary on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mike McCleary, Steve Erwin, Nic Kearfott, Laurel Sheahan,

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Recreation Director Dave Zinnen, Parks and Facility Superintendent Ernie Nelson, Assistant Director of Public Works, Jeff Van Landuyt, Woodstock Transportation Commission Chairman Andrew Celentano

OTHERS PRESENT: Deputy City Clerk Amy Weber

C. FLOOR DISCUSSION:

1. Public comments
No Comments
2. Commission Member comments for any item not on the agenda
No Comments

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by N. Kearfott, second by Laurel Sheahan to accept the December 9, 2014 Meeting minutes with the following change:

Page 3, item 3, first sentence, change date to October 31, 2015

Ayes: Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried

E. TRANSMITTALS: (No discussion or action requested)

1. Recreation Department Report for December 2014

D. Zinnen stated that he didn't have anything to add to the report except the \$600.00 locker room floor leak. He described the difficulties he faced trying to find someone to fix the leak Christmas week. He stated that the leak was difficult to get to and required cutting into concrete to reach the leaking pipes, fixing the pipes and then pouring the concrete back in. He stated, however, that everything went smoothly. D. Zinnen stated that he was satisfied with the numbers on the Department Report even though he was concerned about the amount of money being put into pool maintenance.

M. McCleary asked if there were a large number of Harrison School District participants. D. Zinnen replied that they didn't have a large number from Harrison School District but they had an entire basketball team. He stated that they like our basketball program better than McHenry's, plus we have aquatics. M. McCleary asked if the fees for them are the same. D. Zinnen replied there is a nonresident fee for basketball and aquatics. M. McCleary asked if there were any questions for D. Zinnen. No questions.

2. Parks Division Report for December 2014

E. Nelson stated that they didn't have much snow removal. He stated that they were able to seal the courthouse windows and that they had painting projects at the Library and City Hall. He added that they also put together a Building Maintenance Crew Leader position. M. McCleary asked if there were any Rotary sign updates. E. Nelson replied that he's had no contact with them. M. McCleary stated that maintaining the Rotary sign has been a time consuming task for a long time, and that updating that technology would be nice. M. McCleary asked if there were any questions for E. Nelson. No questions.

F. OLD BUSINESS:

1. None

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Interaction with WHS EDD Students for the Design of Elevated Path over Wetlands in City Owned Parks

Jeff Van Landuyt, Assistant Director of Public Works City of Woodstock and Staff Liaison for the Woodstock Transportation Commission, of 326 Washington Street, accompanied by Andrew Celentano, Chairman of the Woodstock Transportation Commission of 2116 Greenview Drive, approached the podium to discuss the WHS EDD project. J. Van Landuyt stated that the Woodstock Transportation Commission had worked on projects with the WHS EDD class for a number of years on transportation related issues. He stated that Steve Thompson, WHS Project Lead the Way Coordinator, asked for another project for the next semester. He stated that the students designed a roundabout as an alternative to the 5-way intersection at Lake Street, Madison Street, and South Street the previous semester and S. Thompson is asking for another project that the students can design and build. He stated that the William C. Donado Conservation Area has a walk-way through the wetlands that is hazardous, has broken skids with rusty nails sticking out of them, and not currently maintained by Woodstock Public Works. He stated that this would be a good project for S. Thompson and the students who were already given the design to build a prototype. J. Van Landuyt invited the Commission to meet with the students at their next meeting. He stated that they will bring in professionals to meet with the students, such as the McHenry Conservation District and the Soil and Water District. He stated that this would be a good project and the students would gain valuable experience putting in a walk-way through one of their own parks. He also added that the Woodstock Grant Writer Terri Wilcox is looking to get a \$10,000 grant and \$10,000 matching funds to help fund the project. He asked the Commission if they would want to work with students to review and approve their project. He stated that he and A. Celentano can continue to work with the students up until February 10, 2015. He then introduced A. Celentano to discuss the background of their involvement with the WHS Project Lead the Way EDD students.

A. Celentano stated that he is there to give his own opinions and was not speaking on behalf of the Woodstock Transportation Commission. He stated that in 2010, a group of high school students did a presentation on the overpass on Calhoun Street, at one of the McHenry Transportation Commission meetings, and he asked the students to perform the same presentation at the Woodstock Transportation Commission. After that presentation, he asked the teacher and students to put together another presentation for the Woodstock Transportation Commission, and they did. He stated that two years later, after several projects and presentations, these projects are now part of a graded class and part of the student's curriculum. He stated that this project has helped students attain scholarships and internships. One student was awarded a \$15,000 scholarship to Bradley University and another student was accepted into Perdue University and received a one-year internship in Berlin, Germany. He described several other projects that WHS EDD students have done including a bike path and a 5-way roundabout. He stated that J. Van Landuyt brought in

several other professionals to talk to the students and give them input on their projects. He stated that after the roundabout presentation, all five students involved were offered an internship with an engineering company. He stated, that in his opinion, this project should be expanded to include colleges and universities for future engineers and planners. He then asked the commission if they had any questions.

M. McCleary asked if the water table fluctuations were causing the movement of the skids in the William C. Donado Conservation area. J. Van Landuyt responded that they are moving because there is no base, they are just laid on top of the ground. M. McCleary asked if this is going to be a permanent structure. J. Van Landuyt replied that it will be permanent in the sense that it won't have to be removed every year, and they are hoping to get a long life out of it. He stated that whatever the student's build will have to be something the City will agree to have in their park. He stated that like other parks the water table does go up and down, however they told the students that one of the stipulations for their design is that they cannot block the flow of water. He stated that they will have professionals meet with the students to help them develop their design for the walk-way. He stated that we are trying to educate these students but we are learning things as well.

S. Erwin stated that none of the projects the students have presented in the past have been built but this one will. J. Van Landuyt stated that is correct and the William C. Donato walk-way is an existing problem in the City. A. Celentano stated that none of the projects that the students have proposed have been implemented in the City. He stated that they don't guarantee the students anything because a lot of things have to go on before anything gets done and he is hoping that, at some point, they will see their ideas implemented. J. Van Landuyt added that so far they haven't found any projects that the students could actually build until now, though he's hoping there will be more future opportunities for hands-on building projects in the City.

N. Kearfott asked what the initial funds were that they have to start with to get a matching grant and what does the students need to start the project. J. Van Landuyt replied that the City of Woodstock and the Public Works Department will give them everything they need to build the prototype after the design is approved, then the City can come up with \$10,000 to match the \$10,000 grant to build it. He stated that the reason they are bringing the project to this Commission is because it's not a transportation project and we are asking you to approve it is because it's a park wetland walk issue. M. McCleary asked that if it were constructed than it would be constructed by the Public Works Department. J. Van Landuyt replied yes. S. Erwin asked for details on the class. J. Van Landuyt replied that the name of the class is Engineering Design and Development Project Lead the Way class and they meet from 1:25 PM to 2:20 PM. He stated that if Park & Recreation Commission wants to be involved they will bring the project to the February 10, 2015 Park & Recreation Meeting. He added that the Commission can decide on how many meetings to grant the students.

M. McCleary asked who the grant was through. J. Van Landuyt stated that it's an Open Lands grant. M. McCleary asked what the current length of walkway was. J. Van Landuyt referred to picture of the area and said that the students will go out this Friday to map out the project. A. Celentano stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission will have a better feel about how this will work than the Transportation Commission regarding materials. He also stated that he hopes the Commission will go along with the idea of having the two Commissions working together.

M. McCleary stated that it sounded like an excellent project, and they were honored that it was brought to them.

L. Sheahan stated that this project is a good idea.

S. Erwin stated that they are more than willing to work with the Transportation Commission and is looking forward to working with the students.

M. McCleary asked if they will be working with the students on a weekly or monthly basis. J. Van Landuyt replied that initially it will be weekly at the LRC learning center until they can bring in other people to help advise them.

2. Request by Woodstock Girls Softball to Construct Scoreboards at Bates Park

Eric Thoreau, Woodstock Girls Softball Coordinator, stated that they wanted to propose putting in scoreboards in Rosky Park. He stated that they want to build a scoreboard with a deck for kids to sit and watch the game while putting up numbers for the scores. He stated that the project would cost \$1,000. He stated that the only thing not accounted for in the cost to build were the hole diggers needed to dig post holes. He added that they will be responsible for maintaining the scoreboards. He stated that they have 5 softball fields and want to put up a scoreboard in 1-3 of them depending on how the first scoreboard construction goes. He stated that they are planning on putting up advertising banners to help defray costs.

N. Kearfott asked what the scoreboards would be made of. E. Thoreau replied that it would be some type of painted plywood. He added that they want something solid that will withstand weather. S. Erwin stated that they might want to look into something more weather proof. E. Thoreau stated that is why they want to start by building only 1 or 2 scoreboard to see how it works out. M. McCleary asked when they plan to build them. E. Thoreau replied that they want to start this spring, depending on how many volunteers he can get to help, and he hopes to have them completed by March or April. E. Nelson stated that he has equipment for digging the holes that they could use. S. Erwin asked what was going to go underneath the scoreboards. E. Nelson stated that they would work with them on that. M. McCleary stated that he would like to see what the final materials for the scoreboard are going to be. M. McCleary stated that painted plywood is high maintenance and that other materials for the scoreboards, as well as location of the scoreboards, must be considered and approved by E. Nelson prior to construction.

Motion by S. Erwin, second by L. Sheahan to approve the request by Woodstock Girls Softball to construct scoreboards at Bates Park with the stipulation that scoreboard materials and location be approved by E. Nelson. Ayes: N. Kearfott, L. Sheahan, S. Erwin, M. McCleary. Nays: None. Absentees: None.

Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Woodstock high school update
2. Woodstock materials update
3. Report on success with the Woodstock City Council.

I. ADJOURN:

S. Erwin made a motion to adjourn, Laurel Sheahan seconding. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm to a Regular Meeting February 10, 2015 @ 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Weber – Deputy City Clerk